GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1470
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
PALMOIL PLANTATION GROWERS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the palmoil plantation growers in Southern States have been agitating about the fall of Palmoil prices in their States resulting in uprooting of their plantations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the palmoil imports from other countries are causing major concern to the domestic growers and industry;

(d) if so, whether palmoil imports are effecting the economy of groundnut farmers and coconut growers; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the farmers and industry?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. Due to large import of crude palmoil (CPO) at reduced duty the price of indigenous CPO has come down from Rs.32,000 per MT in 1998 to Rs.13,000 per MT during current year causing concern among oil palm growers in the Southern States. Due to decline in prices of indigenous Crude Palm Oil (CPO) some area has been uprooted in various States implementing the Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP).

(c)&(d): Large scale imports of edible oils has resulted in the decline in the prices of CPO and other edible oils due to which the farmers growing oil palm, coconut and oilseeds including groundnut are not able to get the remunerate prices for their produce.

(e): In order to provide remunerative prices to the farmers the Government is implementing a Market support scheme through Nafed being the Central Nodal Agency for price support operation of various oilseeds except oil palm. For the procurement of oil palm fresh fruit bunches (FFB) the Government of India is implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) to provide reasonable price to the Oil Palm growers. Besides, to reduce the advderse effect of import of edible oil on domestic prices of edible oils and to protect the interest of oilseeds, oil palm and coconut growers. Government has increased the import duty on various categories of edible oils in the recent Budget-2001-02.